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THIRD ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT

Exercises Highly Creditable in Every Grade and Department. Large Audience Attended.

At no time in the past have the commencement exercises been more thoroughly enjoyed than they were last week. The people have been lavish in their praise, every word of which was deserved.

The high school commencement began Wednesday night with the annual celebration by the McDuffie literary society. There were five young ladies, Misses Annie May Culbreath, Janice Morgan, Lydia Brunson, Ouida Pattison and Emmie Broadwater, to compete for a medal offered at the beginning of the session by Mr. Geo. F. Mims for the one who recited best. This honor, together with the gold medal, fell to the lot of Miss Emmie Broadwater.

The young men, Douglas Timmerman, Pendleton Gaines, Edwin Folk, Glover Tompkins and Carroll Rainsford, competed for a gold medal that was given by Mr. Orlanda Sheppard for the one most gifted in declamation. This was won by Carroll Rainsford. The judges in both contests were Prof. Scott of Trenton, Prof. Blakely of Ora, and Mrs. Feltham of Edgefield. In presenting the medals Prof. Scott commended the teachers and members of the literary society for the splendid work they have done during the past session.

Thursday night, the only pay night of the commencement, the members of the eleventh grade gave a comedy in four acts, entitled "Cupid, the Conqueror." Every part was well rendered. Indeed we have never before heard so much comment upon an entertainment of this character, and it is conceded the best play ever presented in Edgefield by amateurs. The sum of \$75.00 was realized for the school.

The graduating exercises of the high school were held in the auditorium of the building Friday night. There were nine to complete the course and a large number of relatives and friends gathered to witness their graduation. Those who received diplomas were: Misses Jeanie Simkins, Lallie Peak, Ida Folk, Annabelle Saunders, Ruth Lyon, Helen Dorn, Rhea Edmunds, William and Diomed Hollingsworth. The salutatory was read by Miss Jeanie Simkins and the valedictory by Miss Ida Folk. Miss Lallie Peak read a paper entitled, "Four Decades of Edgefield History—1785 to 1825." The Edgefield chapter, D. A. R., some time ago offered a prize of \$5.00 in gold to the high school pupil who wrote the best essay on this subject. Miss Lallie Peak's was selected as the best by the committee of judges. It contained much valuable information concerning the early settlement of Edgefield.

The diplomas were presented by Arthur S. Tompkins, secretary of the board of trustees, and A. E. Padgett made a report of the financial status of the school.

The literary address before the graduating class, was delivered by L. T. Baker, dean of the University of South Carolina. The speaker stated that while there was need for vocational and practical education, yet that which is needed most is the development of the inherent powers within. The possibilities of what a human life may achieve are almost without limit, but we are utilizing but a small per cent. of our force. He referred to the achievements of Napoleon, Washington, Goethe and other celebrities, stating that instead of these standing out isolated and alone as conspicuous examples of greatness, the average of the human race should and will yet, if they develop their powers to the maximum, measure up to these.

Mr. Lyon offered a medal at the opening of the session to be awarded to the high school pupil who made the highest average for the session, and this was won by Miss Margaret May. This honor fell to her at the close of the last session. Dr. J. S. Byrd offered a medal to the pupil of the school who made the most improvement during the session, and this was won by Master Elbert Mundy. These medals were pre-

sented by Dr. Jones. The prize which the D. A. R. offered was presented to Miss Lallie Peak by the Rev. A. L. Gunter.

Early in the session the Edgefield chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, offered two prizes, one for the best paper on the subject, "Was Robert E. Lee a Traitor?" and a second prize for the second best paper. The first prize, \$5.00 in gold, was won by Miss Margaret May, and the second prize, a history by Miss Mildred Rutherford, was won by Miss Ouida Pattison.

The recital given Saturday night by Miss Couch's music pupils was highly creditable. Several selections were rendered by violin pupils who had been taking lessons on this difficult instrument but a short time, and yet they performed with remarkable ease and grace. The pupils on the piano, both the beginners and advanced pupils, played beautifully, reflecting credit upon themselves and their very capable teacher. The following is the programme in detail:

PART I.

Valse (piano), Mack—Raymond Dunovant, Willie McManus, Helen Nicholson.

March (piano), Leaman—May Rives, Felicia Mims, Helen Nicholson.

Valse Badinage (piano), Morris—Elbert Mundy.

Polonaise (piano), Chopin—Genevieve Norris, Lydia Brunson, Grace Tompkins.

Fanfare Militaire (piano), Ascher—Ruth Lyon, Helen Dorn, Elbert Mundy. Reverie (violins), Gillis—Sabe Miller, Elwyn Moore.

Valse Impromptu, Raff—Jeanie Simkins, Willie Peak.

PART II.

Kamenow Ostrow (piano), Rubenstein—Helen Dorn.

Mazurka (violin), Demuth—Elwyn Moore.

Cachoucha (piano), Raff—Ruth Lyon.

Polonaise (violin), Reiding—Sabe Miller.

Polka De La Reine (Raff)—Margaret May.

Waltz (violins), Warren—Sabe Miller, Diomed Hollingsworth, Elwyn Moore, George Tompkins.

Rosamunde Overture (piano) Schubert—Margaret May, Ruth Lyon.

Prof. Lyon has been warmly congratulated upon the very successful session that has just closed, and upon the highly creditable commencement exercises. The words of commendation are well deserved.

Statistics of the War.

We don't know to what extent reliance may be placed in statistics. But figures are interesting, anyway.

The statisticians say that at the present rate of the war Germany will in August begin to show such a weakening of forces that the Teuton allies cannot much longer maintain the long lines they are now manning. It is said that the German losses have been 2,200,000 in 21 months of warfare. The net loss, after considering the new classes of youth enlisted, are declared to be 1,100,000; and not much reserve to be drawn upon in the way of growing youth of military age.

At the outset of the war it was estimated that Germany was capable of putting 7,000,000 men into the field. It is declared that there are now in ranks 9,000,000 men, from the Central powers and 14,000,000 from the allies.—Columbia Record.

Had Pleasant Trip.

Gen. M. L. Bonham and sons, Dr. M. L. Bonham, Jr., and Mr. Proctor A. Bonham of Greenville, returned Thursday night from Saluda and Edgefield counties where they spent a few days during the past week. Gen. Bonham went to visit his ancestral home. He stated yesterday that he had an especially interesting trip, and that the crops down there were much further advanced than in this section.—Anderson Intelligencer.

JOHNSTON LETTER.

U. D. C. Held Last Meeting. Fidelis Class Entertained. Mrs. Crouch Hostess. New Century Club Met.

With the last meeting of the Mary Ann Buie chapter, D. of C., the activities of the chapter will cease in a business way. The meeting was held in the home of Mrs. John Mobley with a full attendance. All of the reports were good. The treasurer reported \$24 in hand, the registrar had four prospective members, the historian told of a most interesting recent meeting, several original papers having been handed in. The chapter decided to place in the school library the book, "The birth of a nation." Plans were made for the annual picnic of June 16, which will be held with Mrs. Martha Edwards, and to this the veterans with their wives are invited. Invitations will be extended to the widows of veterans and others. Officers for the coming year were elected which resulted in a re-election: President, Mrs. J. H. White; vice-president, Mrs. M. T. Turner; recording secretary, Miss Zena Payne; corresponding secretary, Mrs. F. M. Boyd; treasurer, Mrs. J. P. Bean; historian, Mrs. O. D. Black; registrar, Mrs. John Wright; gleaner, Mrs. M. W. Crouch; auditor, Mrs. W. L. Coleman; directress of D. of C., Mrs. P. B. Waters. The social feature was very pleasant and the hostess assisted by Mesdames J. P. Bean and McCreight served a sweet course.

The Fidelis class of the Baptist church entertained on Thursday morning for Miss Martha Watson, she being one of the members of the class and two very pleasant hours were spent in the home of Miss Clara Sawyer. As a means of entertainment progressive rook was played and the game was a bright and animated one. The honoree was presented with a beautiful silver ladle from the class, which she received in a most feeling manner. Later, refreshments of iced tea and a variety of sandwiches were served. The W. C. T. U. meets on Friday afternoon with Mrs. O. D. Black at 5 o'clock.

Miss Mary Smith of Mullins who is the guest of her sister, Mrs. E. O. Crouch was honored by her on Saturday morning with a luncheon and about twenty-four were present to enjoy the pleasures afforded. Several games of progressive rook was played and a tie having been made, Misses Ella Jacobs and Marie Lewis cut for the prize, a box of crepe de chine handkerchiefs. The latter won and presented the gift to the honoree. A tempting luncheon was served.

Mr. Wallace Turner and Mr. Fletcher Horne returned the last of the week from Bliss Electrical school, Washington.

Misses Antoinette Denny and Annie Crouch are at home from Converse college.

Mrs. Earl Crouch was hostess for the young matron's club on Friday afternoon and two very happy hours were spent by the members and other invited guests. The home was beautifully decorated and the cool veranda was a most attractive spot, punch being served here by Misses Annie Crouch and Mary Smith. After score cards had been given for progressive rook an animated game was had, the tally being kept with gold stars. After the cards had been laid aside, sweet music was enjoyed and later the hostess served block cream in green and white with Lady Baltimore cake. So pleasant was the occasion, the guests were reluctant to leave, each moment had been so pleasant.

The week's pleasures ended with the delightful afternoon party of Saturday given by Miss Gertrude Strother in compliment to Miss Martha Watson. With Miss Watson was her friend Miss Bouknight of Leesville who had come to attend her marriage. Fruit nectar was served by Miss Rachael Simmons out on the veranda and after all had arrived the guests were amused by a heart mending contest. Red hearts containing love thoughts had been cut into many pieces these the guests placing together and when completed, each read their heart. After vocal music by Miss Clara Sawyer and piano selections by Prof. John Waters, red cards were

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HARDY'S HAPPENINGS.

Refreshing Rains Fallen. Farm Work Being Rushed. Commencement a Great Success.

We certainly hope those Texas people have had as good seasons of rain as we have been blessed with. The wind blew hard all day Saturday and the clouds boiled and dispersed and came together again and again. Finally the rain came down slowly and gently where we were. There was a good deal of electricity all the while though nearer night and after midnight there was a good deal more lightning and thunder and more rain.

The peas are being sowed by the quantity. Potatoes set, cotton chopped and plowed and corn worked. Everything on the farm is on the rush and will be for two months or more. But then is there ever a time when there is nothing to do on a farm? We have lived in the country on the same farm all our lives and always found more to be done than we ever got done.

We hear the commencement in North Augusta was a grand success. A certain young man who attended said, all the graduate young ladies were so pretty from where he sat, he could not decide which was the prettiest. He would rather have a closer inspection before he passed his opinion. But as he went this way to see one we have an idea he has decided which was the prettiest.

Mrs. Ollie Bunch and Messrs. Sammie and Mealing Bunch and Mr. Frank Townes and Miss Mary Townes spent Sunday afternoon at Mrs. Georgia McKie's, and with Mrs. Sallie Bunch. Also Mr. Harry Bunch and family spent the afternoon with his mother who has been very ill all the week with grip.

Miss Mary Townes had a chill Tuesday last week but is looking and feeling fine again.

We hope malaria is not coming down in our midst, we don't need it.

We hear Miss Theresa Bunch is still visiting relatives in Columbus, Ga., where she has been for 8 weeks.

Mrs. Geo. Nixon is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Ollie Bunch. She speaks of spending some time at her old home at Clark's Hill this summer taking with her Mr. Joe Nixon's children.

Hardy's.

Contest For Silver Medal.

June 11, which is next Sunday has been set apart by the W. C. T. U. as anti cigarette Sunday, and a very pleasant program will be rendered in the Methodist church in the interests of this subject, as will be seen by the following program:

Devotions by Rev. A. L. Gunter. Song, "Work for the night is coming."

A fiend, Corrie Cheatham.

A gentleman's cigarette, Edward Peak.

A threat from little Tommie, Helen Nicholson.

No cigarette for me, John Wells.

Not fit to be kissed, Eleanor Mims.

A care for charity, Allen Edwards.

Music.

Address, Edwin Folk.

Report of judges.

Song, "Labor on."

Benediction.

This occasion will be in the hands of the young, even the judges coming from that class. We hope that every young person and child in Edgefield will come and see what is to be done and that more than all the grown up folks will fill the church, thus encouraging the young people in their enterprise.

Hon. George Bell Timmerman.

Among the candidates' cards this week will be found that of Solicitor George Bell Timmerman who is seeking re-election. He has served almost 12 years as the prosecuting attorney for the 11th judicial circuit and it is upon the record he has made during that time he is asking for re-election. Mr. Timmerman is an able lawyer and enjoys a lucrative practice. He has many relatives and friends in this, his native county, who will give them their support. Mr. Timmerman is a member of the Lexington bar.

FOUR DECADES OF EARLY EDGEFIELD HISTORY

Essay Written by Miss Lallie Peak in D. A. R. Contest Won \$5.00 in Gold.

The strife of war is o'er
And the battle of peace begun,
But Edgefield shall weep no more,
For her liberty forever is won.

Edgefield, we love you, for in the very beginning there was encendered in your loyal heart that element of refinement and aristocracy that years nor the root of evil can efface.

This historic county until the year 1785 was a part of Ninety Six district. In this year a vast area of that district formed the county of which we now boast. Edgefield county was much larger than it is now. The Savannah river separated it from Georgia. It was bounded on the south west by the districts of Orangeburg, Barnwell and a part of Lexington; it was bounded on the north by Newberry, and Abbeville served as its north western boundary. It was forty-six miles long and thirty-seven miles wide containing 1,089,280 acres. Our county was settled almost altogether by immigrants from Virginia and North Carolina.

It contained several varieties of soil; the sandy along the leaf pine lands and a deep red soil along the oak and hickory land. The main productions were peas, sweet potatoes, beans, Indian corn, tobacco, wheat, hemp and a small amount of cotton.

In the year 1785 the present site was selected for the county seat of justice. This picturesque site was selected because of its healthful location and its beautiful springs of sparkling water; for springs in those days were Edgefield's chief water supply. In the beginning of the nineteenth century the houses of Edgefield town were very scattered, numbering between forty and fifty. There were about thirty-eight families living here then, and the population amounted to three hundred.

Just a mile north of Edgefield court house at the fork of the Blocker and Ninety Six roads was the little town of Pottersville, which was founded by the ingenious Abner Landrum. This little town was supported by the manufacture of stoneware, which was begun and carried out by the scientific discoveries of Landrum. This stoneware was made cheaper and proved better than any ware of the kind manufactured by Europe or America. Pottersville contained sixteen or seventeen houses with as many families; it supported a regular academy with three teachers. There was also a millinery shop there. These people manufactured stage coaches and meat packing was a great industry. At this time the people of Edgefield were almost wholly dependent on the people of Pottersville, especially for "old corn and rye."

Arthur Simkins, an eminent Revolutionary soldier and citizen, came to South Carolina from Virginia and settled at "Cedar Field," near the county seat of Edgefield. The historic home of Arthur Simkins with its terraced walks and gardens, its fountains and conservatories, its winding walks among roses and lilacs, its fragrant bowers of English honeysuckle has crumbled into dust. The fine orchards have been converted into prosaic cotton fields. A relic of the past may be seen in cedar trees. The storms of centuries have failed to mar their beauty and symmetry.

Arthur Simkins donated to the Baptists the property on which their church now stands, and also the lot that forms a part of beautiful "Willow Brook" cemetery. Eldred Simkins was the son of Arthur. Had it not been for Eldred and Providence the people of early Edgefield would never have had the great minister Basil Manly in their midst. These men were intimately associated at the university of South Carolina. When Simkins came home during vacation he invited Manly to preach in the Edgefield court house. His first sermon was in connection with a young man who was to be executed for committing murder. This sermon was preached at the request of the prisoner himself. Another interesting character was Lorenzo Dow, who was one of the first Methodist ministers who ever

preached in the court house. He was a splendid orator, but possessed odd characteristics. He always seemed to be in haste. When he reached the court house if a window was nearer than a door, he would leap into the window and immediately after he had delivered his message, he would exit in the same manner. Joseph Moore was a famous Methodist minister here at this time. Richard Tutt built the first house in Edgefield in 1785. It stood where the residence of Mr. Walter Adams now stands. He was also one of the first clerks of court. In the four decades there were three besides Tutt namely, Stanmore Butler, M. Mims and Daniel Byrd. One of the earliest of Edgefield's records recorded in the clerk's office is this: "Joseph Doolittle, state of South Carolina Edgefield district. Personally appeared who being duly sworn depose and saith that on Saturday the fifteenth of this instant in an affray with Daniel Holsonback in the said affray he the said Holsonback's right ear. Sworn to 20th of March 1806 before me, Charles Hammond, Joseph Doolittle. Recorded March 26, 1806." At this period a horse thief was branded by a slash on the ear. And this record is to vindicate this man from disgrace.

In the war of 1812 there were many heroes sent from Edgefield, the most prominent being Gen. William Butler, Samuel Mays and Captain Allen Addison. In the year 1814 George McDuffie was a distinguished lawyer here. He was first made a legislator from Edgefield, next he was elected governor of South Carolina, and next he was sent to the United States Senate. Geo. McDuffie deserves to be long remembered as a hero of early Edgefield, and it is in his honor that our literary society is named.

Edmund Bacon, familiarly known to us as "Ned Brace," was a brilliant lawyer in Edgefield as early as 1822. To read "Georgia Scenes" is but to love "Ned Brace." At the age of fifteen he was given the honor of delivering the welcome address to President Washington at Augusta when he made his southern tour. Edmund Bacon is buried in "Willow Brook" cemetery. In wandering there I found his grave with this epitaph inscribed:

"Within this grave wrapt in last long sleep
Lies one whose doom a wife and children weep
Whose many friends with anxious sighs regret
The loss of virtue they can ne'er forget
The loss of virtue! no the mortal form
May waste beneath and feed the hungry worm."
The head that keenly felt another's woe
The voice of eloquence with joyous flow
May fade away or rest within the gloom
Of death's dominion this cold and narrow tomb
But the bright mind on wings of bliss shall rise
To dwell immortal in its native skies.

The churches established in early Edgefield were Methodist and Baptist. The first church in Edgefield village was a Methodist. It stood in the grove near where the residence of Mr. J. L. Mims now stands. The records of this church have become extinct, and it was only through the kindness of an elderly friend that I obtained this knowledge. I obtained information of the organization and building of the first Baptist church of Edgefield through records left by Stanmore Butler Griffin, R. H. and M. H. Mims. This church was built on the same site on which the church stands to-day. On Sunday morning April 20, 1823, Matthew Mims; and Alexander McWhorter were ordained deacons and Rev. Basil Manly, the first pastor, preached the dedication sermon. The first Sunday school held in the upper part of the state was held in this church. It was organized by Miss Eliza Johnston Drysdale. The first prayer meeting was held in this church July 1825. To furnish

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